



*Office of Public Affairs
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U.S. RECOGNIZES EXEMPLARY NZ TROOPS

During a ceremony to award prestigious US medals to New Zealand troops, U.S. Ambassador William McCormick praised their extraordinary ability to win respect and establish friendships.

“This ceremony helps to highlight how these individual contributions combine to create a bigger picture of the truly transformational role that New Zealand is playing in Afghanistan and around the world”, said Ambassador McCormick.

NZ Defence Minister Phil Goff, who attended the ceremony, noted that it is rare for defence force personnel to have exemplary operational service recognized by other countries.

“These awards by the United States Government acknowledge the high value placed on the contribution made by New Zealanders to Operation Enduring Freedom,” added Minister Goff.

Ambassador McCormick applauded the NZ contribution to building critical infrastructure such as schools, police stations and hospitals and added that the awarding of these medals did more than just show U.S. appreciation to the hard work of the Kiwi contingent.

“It also emphasizes the dedication which our two nations -- together with approximately forty other countries -- have shown to the people of Afghanistan,” he said.